

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier version and all earlier listings of the claims.

Claims 1-30 (canceled).

Claim 31 (New): An information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising:

- a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable;
- a determination step, of determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed in said first processing step to be made nonreadable;
- and
- a second processing step, of making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

Claim 32. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 33. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 32, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

Claim 34. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the scenario file is a scenario file that describes a sequence for controlling each material file in a time series.

Claim 35. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 31, wherein the material file is comprised of one or more of image data, voice data and character data.

Claim 36. (New) An information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising:

a comparison step, in which, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable, the predetermined scenario file is compared with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and

a determination step, of determining, based on a result obtained in said comparison step, one of the material files that shall be a target to be made nonreadable from among the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file,

wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file is eliminated as a candidate for being made the target to be made nonreadable.

Claim 37. - (New) An information processing method according to Claim 36, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 38. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 37, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

Claim 39. (New) An information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising:

a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and

a second processing step, of making nonreadable, from among the

material files in the storage means, any material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file.

Claim 40. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 39, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 41. (New) An information processing method according to Claim 40, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

Claim 42. (New) An information processing apparatus which records material files and scenario files that control the material files in storage means and reproduces a set of material files according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising:

first processing means for instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable;

determination means for determining unnecessary material files from among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed by said first processing means to be made nonreadable; and

second processing means for making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

Claim 43. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 44. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 43, wherein the material file does not consist of said link information to the scenario file.

Claim 45. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the scenario file is a scenario file that describes a sequence for controlling each material file in a time series.

Claim 46. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the material file is comprised of one or more of image data, voice data and character data.

Claim 47. (New) An information processing apparatus which records material files and scenario files that control the material files in storage means and reproduces a set of material files according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising:

comparison means for, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in said storage means nonreadable, comparing the predetermined scenario file with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and

determination means for determining, based on a result provided by said comparison means, a material file that shall be a target to be made nonreadable, from among the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file,

wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file, is eliminated as a candidate for being the target to be made nonreadable.

Claim 48. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 47, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 49. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 48, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

Claim 50. (New) An information processing apparatus which records material files and scenario files that control the material files in storage means and reproduces a set of material files according to a corresponding scenario file, comprising:

first processing means for instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and

second processing means for making nonreadable, from among the material files in the storage means, any material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files, other than the predetermined scenario file.

Claim 51. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 50, wherein the scenario file is comprised of link information to the material file to be controlled.

Claim 52. (New) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 51, wherein the material file does not consist of link information to the scenario file.

Claim 53. (New) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program to achieve an information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising:

a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable;

a determination step, of determining unnecessary material files from

among the material files in the storage means, wherein the unnecessary material files are material files that are not controlled by any scenario file other than the predetermined scenario file that has been instructed in said first processing step to be made nonreadable; and

a second processing step, of making the unnecessary material files, controlled by the predetermined scenario file, nonreadable.

Claim 54. (New) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program to achieve an information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a corresponding scenario file, said method comprising:

a comparison step, in which, in a case of making a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable, the predetermined scenario file is compared with the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file; and

a determination step, of determining, based on a result obtained in said comparison step, one of the material files that shall be a target to be made nonreadable from among the material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file,

wherein any material file included in both a first set of material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and a second set of material files controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file is eliminated as a candidate for being made the target to be made nonreadable.

Claim 55. (New) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program to achieve an information processing method in which material files and scenario files that control the material files are recorded in a storage means and in which a set of material files is reproduced according to a scenario file, said method comprising:

a first processing step, of instructing to make a predetermined scenario file in the storage means nonreadable; and

a second processing step, of making nonreadable, from among the material files in the storage means, any material files controlled by the predetermined scenario file and not controlled by the scenario files other than the predetermined scenario file.